

Retraining Act of 2009, on rollcall No. 833—H. Res. 291, Recognizing the crucial role of assistance dogs in helping wounded veterans live more independent lives, and on rollcall No. 834—S. 509, A bill to authorize a major medical facility project at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Walla Walla, Washington, had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 5, 2009*

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Wednesday, November 4, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Rollcall 841—“nay.”  
Rollcall 842—“noe.”  
Rollcall 843—“yea.”  
Rollcall 844—“yea.”  
Rollcall 845—“aye.”  
Rollcall 846—“aye.”  
Rollcall 847—“noe.”  
Rollcall 848—“noe.”  
Rollcall 849—“noe.”  
Rollcall 850—“aye.”  
Rollcall 851—“noe.”  
Rollcall 852—“yea.”  
Rollcall 853—“yea.”  
Rollcall 854—“yea.”  
Rollcall 855—“yea.”

#### RECOGNIZING DR. SHEILA O'SHEA KAHRS

### HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 5, 2009*

Mr. LINDER. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I rise today to recognize Dr. Sheila O'Shea Kahrs, the Principal of Haymon-Morris Middle School in Winder, Georgia, who has been named the 2010 MetLife/National Association of Secondary School Principals, NASSP, National Principal of the Year.

The MetLife/NASSP National Principal of the Year program honors distinguished middle level and high school principals who have provided first-rate learning opportunities for students and made significant contributions to the education profession.

Each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity selects one middle level and one high level school principal to represent them. From these individuals, six finalists are chosen as candidates for the National Principal of the Year award. Dr. Kahrs distinguished herself from these outstanding educators and was chosen as the 2010 MetLife/NASSP National Principal of the Year.

The Seventh District of Georgia is privileged to have such an accomplished educator serving our children. Extending my sincerest thanks to Dr. Kahrs for all her hard work and dedication to the profession of teaching, I wish her the best on her future endeavors.

#### INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4027, THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER AND WESTERN AREA POWER ADMIN- ISTRATION FIRM POWER CUS- TOMER PROTECTION ACT

### HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 5, 2009*

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, as Ranking Republican of the House Natural Resources Committee, I am today introducing legislation to protect American taxpayers and existing customers of the Western Area Power Administration, WAPA. It is called the “The American Taxpayer and Western Area Power Administration Firm Power Customer Protection Act.” I'm pleased that TOM MCCLINTOCK, the Ranking Republican on the Water and Power Subcommittee, is joining me in sponsoring this bill.

Earlier this year, the Democrat Majority passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which is better known as the stimulus spending bill. Many of the new programs in this law were never debated beforehand and were inserted behind closed doors without transparency or an opportunity for Members of Congress or the American people to review and scrutinize them.

Included among these new programs was WAPA's Transmission Infrastructure Program's borrowing authority. This new \$3.25 billion borrowing authority allows the WAPA Administrator to provide loans to develop new transmission aimed solely at integrating renewable energies. As some envisioned, the loans would be mainly given to private wind and solar developers for transmission investments. This new borrowing authority is quite unlike the Bonneville Power Administration's, BPA, longstanding borrowing authority, which can be used for integrating all generation sources, as well as for fish and wildlife mitigation and conservation efforts.

Madam Speaker, there is another key difference between the two borrowing authorities and it's one that my legislation directly addresses: the risk of a bailout funded by American taxpayers. The actual WAPA statute describes it best: “If, at the end of the useful life of a project, there is a remaining balance owed to the Treasury under this section, the balance shall be forgiven.” This means that American taxpayers will foot the bill for any outstanding balances on a project that cannot be repaid. This would be similar to a homeowner defaulting on a 30 year loan and having the bank pick up the remaining balance, except that the taxpayer would end up paying for the bad investment. BPA, which proudly boasts about repaying its debts with interest and ahead of schedule, does not have a similar taxpayer bailout provision in its borrowing authority. I might also add that the Tennessee Valley Authority repays its debt with interest as well.

To date, WAPA has announced one project under the borrowing authority: a wind transmission project owned by a Canadian company. Under the taxpayer bailout provision, if this project failed, then the American taxpayer would have to bail out a foreign company for up to \$161 million.

It is also important to recognize that some of WAPA's existing customers, who are theo-

retically not impacted by this program, remain concerned that they will now bear some costs even if they do not benefit due to the lack of defined rules and regulations to govern the borrowing authority. It's critical that the principle of “beneficiaries pay” is maintained and not undermined. It is not the responsibility of those who may not benefit from a project, or the federal taxpayers, to fund such projects. Those who build and benefit from a project must bear its full costs.

For these reasons, I am introducing this legislation to amend WAPA's borrowing authority to both add protections for existing customers and to eliminate the taxpayer bailout provisions. I hope for this action on this bill.

#### HONORING SISTER REPARATA FAUBERT, OP

### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 5, 2009*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Sister Reparata Faubert, OP as she celebrates 60 years as a member of the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids. An open house will be held in her honor on November 8 in Flint Michigan.

A native of St. Charles, Michigan, Sister Reparata was taught at Holy Family School by the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids. At the age of 18 she entered the congregation and professed her vows. This was followed by years of teaching high school and working on her education. Sister Reparata obtained a BA from Aquinas College, an MA from the Theological Institute in Saginaw, and a second MA from Cardinal Stritch College.

After completing a CPE program at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor, Sister Reparata began working as a hospital chaplain for the 3 public hospitals in Flint. Her gentle, serene thoughtfulness to patients, families and hospital staff brings solace and hope to persons facing difficult, heart-wrenching events. With the grace that comes from the Eucharist, the Office and the Rosary, Sister Reparata visits the sick and passes on the spiritual blessings.

St. Dominic's life mission was to Praise, to Bless and to Preach and in 1206 he lead 12 women into religious life. They became the first Dominican Sisters Convent and Sister Reparata is part of the line of women that has taken the same vows and served Our Lord, Jesus Christ, with the same joy, stretching back to that first group. She embodies the part of Dominican Life that calls its adherents to be open to encountering the Holy in all people.

When asked to comment on the past 60 years as a member of the Dominican Order, Sister Reparata recalled John 14:23: “If you do the will of My Father, we will come to you and make our abode with you.” It is this humble submission to God's will that has endeared Sister Reparata to everyone that knows her.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding Sister Reparata as she celebrates this milestone. The Flint area has truly been blessed by God for allowing her to work with us. I pray that He will continue to bless us with Sister Reparata's compassion and kindness for many, many years to come.